



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tokimi Nago et al.  
Serial No. : 10/747,825  
Filed : December 29, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 2878  
Confirmation No: 6470  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 03-744  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby request that the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application consider the Information Disclosure Statement being submitted concurrently herewith.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed. If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Tokimi Nago et al.

By

Gregory P. LaPointe  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 28,395  
Tel: (203) 777-6628  
Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: August 31, 2006

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 31, 2006.



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the prior art listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the corresponding European International Search Report.

- (1) EP Patent No. 1 096 441; and
- (2) GB Patent No. 2 355 522.

A listing on Form PTO-1449 is enclosed along with a copy of the non-U.S. documents.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

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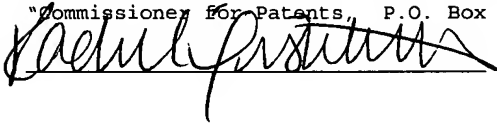
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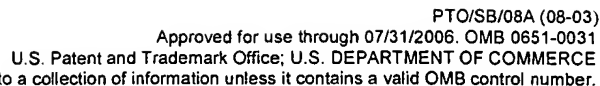
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/747,825
Filing Date	December 29, 2003
First Named Inventor	Tokimi Nago
Art Unit	3653
Examiner Name	M. J. Beauchaine
Attorney Docket Number	03-744

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.**